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President Shelly Discusses Torreon Road Improvements with Sandoval County

BERNALILLO, N.M. - Navajo President Ben Shelly met with Sandoval County Commissioners last Friday to discuss the current and future partnerships to improve roads in the eastern portion of the Navajo Nation including Torreon Road.

Sandoval County in partnership with the Navajo Division of Transportation received \$5 million of TIGER grant funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

“Making improvements on Torreon Road will benefit everyone of the Navajo chapters of Ojo Encino, Counselor and Torreon. Safety is our biggest concern with Torreon Road. School buses will have safe roads to drive and more employment opportunities will open.” President Shelly said.

The proposed rural highway project consists of improvements affecting safety, efficient transportation and potential economic improvement for the Navajo Nation as Torreon road connects rural communities to N.M. Hwy. 550.

With 12 miles of roadway from San Luis to Torreon, about five miles of roadway will be improved with TIGER grant funds with Sandoval County contributing \$500,000 for road improvements.

The development of roads and replacing deteriorating bridges in the Torreon area will bring short-term jobs from construction.

“From the Navajo Nation, we will do our part. We need to continue to partner with New Mexico in these road improvement efforts. That is my reassurance.” President Shelly stated.

Sandoval County Commissioner Chair Darryl F. Madalena said the county would work with the Navajo Nation.

“This is what collaboration is and this is what it looks like. We come together, talk and get it done,” Commissioner Madelena said.

The Navajo Nation through Navajo Division of Transportation and Department of Dine' Education attributed letters of support the TIGER grant. Sandoval County is the only county to receive TIGER grant funds from the 703 applications submitted to the United States Department of Transportation.

Sandoval County has more than 1,500 miles of roads with about a third of roadway on tribal land.

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